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CONTENTS.

VOL. XII, NO. 7, JULY, 1887.

A Week's Trip after Hawk's Eggs.... ... .FRED M. DILLE..... 97
Shore Bird Migration at Monomoy Island, Cape Cod, Mass..... JOHN C. CAHOON.....100
Aptosochromatism.....WALTER HOXIE.....101
Was it a Sparrow Hawk's Nest?..... ..... " " 102
Nesting of Ground Dove..... .....T. D. PERRY..... 102
Nesting of Black Skimmer.....CHAS. H. SHICK.....102
Nesting Habits of Texas Birds.....HIRRY P. ATWATER.. 103
Winter Food of Birds in the South..... ....C. S. BRIMLEY.....105
Baird's Sparrow in the Fall.....L. JONES.....106
Field Notes on Some Birds in Colorado..... ....CHARLES F. MORRISON.....106
Tricolored Blackbird in Colorado..... ..... " " 107
Nesting of Broad-winged Hawk in Chester Co., Penn.....THOMAS H. JACKSON 108
Home of the Carolina Wren..... ....R. B. MCLAUGHLIN.....109
Nesting of Worm-eating Warbler.....SAMUEL B. LADD..... 110
Nesting of Red bellied Hawk in Cooke Co., Texas..... ....EDWIN C. DAVIS.... 110
Nesting Habits of Clay-Colored Sparrow..... ....J. W. PRESTON.....111
Night Heron's Nest..... ....J. M. W..... 112
Nesting of the Whip-poor-Will..... .....WILLIAM L. KELLS..... ...113
Bird Notes from the Pacific Coast..... .....H. R. TAYLOR 114
A New Needle for Ornithological Use.....W. E. SAUNDERS..... 114
Unusual Occurrence of the Red-winged Crossbill in Mass.....115
Entomological Department Errata.....115
The Great Northern Shrike and its Prey..... BENJ. F. HESS.....115
Fortunate Collectors..... 116
Recent Publications..... 116
Correspondence..... 116

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BIRD SKINS.

I have received the following bird skins from the Rio Grande during the past season. All are of superior workmanship and suitable for private collections. I also list a few from other sections of the country.

Mexican Cormorant,
Lesser Snow Goose,
Roseate Spoonbill,
White-face Glossy Ibis,
Great Blue Heron,
Northern Phalarope,
Wilson's Phalarope,
Willet,
Bartramain Sandpiper,
Long-billed Curlew,
Chestnut-bellied Scaled Partridge,
Chachalaca,
White-fronted Dove,
Swallow-tailed Kite,
Harris Hawk,
Red-bellied Hawk,
White-tailed Hawk,
King Eider,
Laughing Gull,
Caspian Tern,
Royal Tern
Forster's Tern,
Black Skimmer,
Turnstone,
Oyster Catcher,
Dusky Grouse,
Willow Ptarmigan,
Passenger Pigeon,
White-winged Dove,
American Rough-leg Hawk,
Ferruginous Rough-leg Hawk,
Duck Hawk,
Audobon's Caracara,
Redheaded Woodpecker,
Californian Woodpecker,
Golden Fronted Woodpecker,
Chuck Wills Widow,
Paraque,
Say's Phœbe,
Green Jay,
Clarke's Nutcracker,
Gray-crowned Leucosticte,
Brown-capped Leucosticte,
Aleutian Song Sparrow,
Texan Cardinal,
Sage Thrasher,
Longbill Thrasher,
Curvebill Thrasher,
Cactus Wren,
Red-spotted Bluethroat,

Western Willet, a new species, see *Auk* for April.

For prices, send for catalogue.

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VOL. XII. BOSTON, MASS., JULY, 1887. No. 7.

A Week's Trip After Hawk's Eggs in Colorado.

BY FRED M. DILLE, GREELY, COLORADO.

On May 20th, 1886, at four o'clock in the afternoon we started. Rather an unseasonable hour to start on a camping trip, but we had fussed for several days in getting our "outfit" together, and when we found everything all packed in the wagon with several hours yet before dark, we started, not caring much where night would catch us.

A little description as to the "outfit" and I will proceed with my narrative of what I considered a rather unlucky trip.

The team consisted of two wiry little bronchos, one of which could be depended upon but the other one needed constant watching. The usual provision box, beds, tent, etc. were in the wagon, and for our cooking we had the "fire irons" and "bake ovens" so commonly used in this country.

For the accommodation of the hawk's eggs I expected to gather I had fifty of the "100" size cigar boxes all full of cotton and fitted in a large dry goods box.

Our route lay east from Greeley, out of the Colony gate, and over the plains for fourteen miles, where we came to Crow Creek opposite "Hoover's sheep camp." This was the only place where we could get water for miles, and after watering the horses at the tanks by the corrall, we drove up the creek till we came to good feeding ground and stopped for the night.

Crow Creek although lined with an abundance of native cotton-wood and willow, is perfectly dry most of the year for about twenty miles from where it empties into the Platte. To picket out the horses, put up the tents and prepare our supper before dark we had to bustle.

On May 21st a Screech Owl gave us a concert in the night, and the first thing I heard in the morning was the glorious song of the Mocking-bird. These birds used to breed abundantly in Greeley some years ago, but left us and took up their haunts in the most isolated places, on accouut of their young being so much sought after.

Did any of "you collectors" ever taste an Owl's egg? I have, and it happened about this way: After breakfast I went out to look up my Screech Owl, and soon found a promising looking hole in a large cottonwood, but quite near the ground. A few raps on the tree brought out *Scops*, and up I went. In order to get fairly at the nest I got astride a slender limb and brought out two eggs. I had just wiped one off and stuck it in my mouth and was wondering where to put the other, when the limb with a loud crack came to the ground, and I brought up face first. The damage done was most of my teeth loose, an ugly hole through my lip, besides a broken egg.

After dinner we packed up and started on up the creek keeping well in among the trees. Empty Hawk's nests were abundant, and so I only got one egg that day. The nest was very high up and parent bird not at home. The egg was quite large being heavily and richly colored with rufous brown, etc. One end seemed about as large as the other. On the whole it very much resembles the egg of the Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Archibuteo ferrugineus*), both insize, shape and color.

Ten miles from our camp we came to the "Big timber," a large and handsome grove of old cottonwoods. D. A. Campfield, a Rhode Island man, has a large sheep ranche here and runs some nine thousand head. A few yards below his house the creek, which runs quite a stream from here up, suddenly disappears in the sand and is not seen again.

A large number of Blue Herons were fixing up their old nests in the tops of the trees, and Mockingbirds, Shrikes, Blackbirds, Doves Flycatchers and Kingbirds were abundant. Also a species of Grackle that I was not acquainted with. I shot one specimen for identification

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but that night it was carelessly left on the ground and I never saw it again.

Stopped for the night at a point known as the "big Crossing" where the old cattle trails from "Pawnee Buttes" cross the creek.

I secured a good set of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), three eggs, and we killed two large rattle snakes quite near the tent.

On Saturday, May 22nd, about midnight we were awakened by a terrible roar and even before we had time to speak to each other, one of our short notice Colorado zephyrs had struck us and away went our tent in a direction towards the horses, followed up by a big train of rattling tin ware. It was as dark as Egypt and we spent the rest of the night under the wagon, our sleep being broken at intervals by the howling of the Cayotes, and the patter of rain which continued until morning. When daylight came we could see nothing of our horses. One rope was broken near the noose and the other was missing entirely. I suppose when all that white canvas came flapping up in the wind that they could not resist the temptation to stampede.

We fished the tent out of the muddy creek some four hundred yards below camp, gathered together what else we could find of our effects and sat down to a rather dismal breakfast, after which I started out for the horse ranche eight miles above, where I knew I could find plenty of horses with which to hunt up my own. On the way I flushed a Western Red-tail (*Buteo borealis calurus*), from her nest in a high willow.

I reached the ranche a little before noon, took dinner, after which one of the men caught me a horse and I was off down the creek again. I took a strong pair of field glasses, my "lasso" and a rubber blanket and set out over the prairie at the rate of twelve miles an hour. To make the narrative of that long hot afternoon short, I found the runaways at the Colony gate, roped them, shifted my saddle on one, and was back at camp by nine o'clock that night. A ride of some fifty miles in five hours.

On Sunday, May 23rd, the outfit was packed up and I proceeded up the creek. We went into camp in a large grove of old cottonwoods just above the ranche and spent our Sabbath there. Birds of all kinds were numerous around the ranche and among them were great numbers of the Western Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*). They all seemed to have just arrived and I saw many species new to the country, but it was too early for their eggs.

In this connection I might here add that although I was at least six days behind the time that I usually find fresh eggs of the hawk, all that I took on this trip were perfectly fresh and the sets were mostly complete.

On Monday, May 24th, we got off in good season and went up the creek some eight miles and then struck out on the prairie for four or five miles until we came to Willow Creek. I saw many a solitary Mountain Plover (*Podasocys montanus*), stalk off, but for the life of me I could not find their nests. These are very hard to discover, being flat on the ground with no relief and the actions of the birds are very deceitful. This, however, was the time to obtain fresh eggs.

On Willow Creek the trees are few and far between, yet with but few exceptions every tree contained a hawk's nest. It is nothing but a "dry run," with here and there a spring coming out of the banks, yet a better locality for hawk's nests cannot be found in all Colorado. Our course was directly up the creek towards the chalk bluffs that now began to appear in the northern horizon. We had no road to follow and went bumping over the cactus beds. Sometimes we had to go back on our tracks for several hundred yards to get out of a small canon that we had unconsciously rode into.

Our first finds were two sets of Western Red-tail, of three eggs each. One nest I reached out of the wagon, and the other only by a tough scramble through the lower branches of the willow in which it was placed. Both nests were shallow, rough structures, and were lined with green bunches of cotton balls.

Our native cottonwood trees are covered with large bunches of cotton balls that very much resemble grapes. These do not break until about the last of June, but the hawks, as I have found by careful observation, pick off these bunches and about fill up their nest with them. The heat of the hawk while sitting not only hatches out the eggs but hatches the cotton, so to speak, and our young *Buteo* is ushered into this world on a soft bed of down.

As I remember it this day I took some twelve or thirteen eggs of the Western Red-tail and five eggs of Swainson's Hawk, but a little accident that then happened left me with but few sound eggs. The team ran away over the rough prairie, scattering our whole outfit out and nearly all the eggs were broken. Things were all rather scattered and when we drew around the supper table that evening we only had one plate between us.

The best stopping place at noon we could

find was by a small greenish looking pool of water with three dead steers lying around the edge of it. From a large nest in a tree near by I flushed a Ferruginous Rough-leg, (*Archibuteo Ferrugineus*). There was no mistaking this beautiful bird the moment she was in the air, and I did not shoot her.

In the nest were three well-grown birds; not so large, however, but what they were still snowy white in color, and this find helps to strengthen my previous statement that the Ferruginous Rough-leg nests about one month earlier than the other hawks. Their eggs are invariably two or three in number. Nest very large. There are but few species of hawk's eggs that can approach those of this species in richness of color and size, and I have yet to find the "set" that will make as good an appearance in a cabinet as these do.

I had the good fortune that afternoon of coming across two nests of the American Raven, (*Corvus corax carnivorus*). They were in willow trees about a quarter of a mile apart, and the four ravens were very much worked up over our arrival. Taking flight they circled round and round us, over head, like a hawk, until they almost disappeared from sight and we could hardly see them above. We would occasionally hear that hoarse cry that is so characteristic of this bird, come from the clouds as it seemed.

The nests were about the neatest and best made nest of a large bird that I have ever seen, well shaped and very deep. The inside was all nicely lined with tufts of cow hair. In one nest the hair was all red, while for the make up of the other white steers must have suffered, for I have no doubt but what these ravens got their hair from the backs of living animals. I have seen them in the severe winter weather alight on the back of a steer and pick out huge mouthfuls of flesh, so hungry and voracious do they become.

The eggs were eight in number; in both sets one being perfectly fresh but the others I could not save, not having proper tools with me. In color they were bright green with great elongated blotches of black running lengthwise with the egg. All sixteen were very much alike, hardly distinguishable.

Measurement averaged about 1.98 x 1.30, some being over 2.00 and a few under.

These birds differ very much from the common crow in every way, size, action and croak. I remember the first one I ever saw. I knew it was a raven in a moment. This large set of eight eggs is now in my collection.

Trees began to thin out and in the very last tree on the creek I obtained a set of three eggs of the Krider's Hawk, (*Buteo borealis krideri*). So closely allied are they with the Western Red-tail that a sure identity can only be established by shooting the hawk. The birds are a pure white underneath from neck to end of tail and a person can tell between these two species of hawks which is which, with some degree of accuracy without shooting them, yet it is safer to do so.

After leaving the creek we took a direct course across the prairie for the chalk bluffs and camped for the night on a broad, level plain four miles from their base, and in one of the best natural ranges in the West, so considered.

Large herds of cattle and horses could be seen on all sides with here and there a small band of antelope. We did not pitch the tent that night but slept under the stars. It was a most perfect night and our slumber was sound.

On Tuesday, May 25th, the bluffs stood up ahead of us like a huge wall, and the wide plains stretched away to the south as far as the eye could see. As we drew near, canons and gorges opened up, like the foot hills of the "Rockies." We followed up the Simpson Creek into the hills for some ten miles before stopping. There were lots of trees all along the road but no hawk's nests. We could see the hawks sailing around in great circles far up among the rocks where they probably nest. Small birds were exceedingly numerous, many of them being species that belonged to Wyoming. Against the side of the cliff at one place thousands of Swallows had fastened their mud houses and these all together looked like one immense piece of honey comb.

Next day we took ropes, boxes etc., and struck out up among the rocks. We had pointed out to us a nest of an eagle, but at first glance we saw that we could not get to it. We took two sets of Western Red-tail from nests not four feet apart on a narrow ledge. In places on this great mountain, down which we were walking, the action of wind and rain had so worn on the cliffs that it left standing here and there quite alone, huge columns of sand stone that appeared like chimneys. The tops of these were favorite nesting places for the hawks, and I found on one of them the nest of a Prairie Falcon, (*Hierofalco mexicanus polyagrus*). We shot the female as she flew off the nest.

An immense pile of rubbish of every description formed the nest. The only egg lay in a hollow formed by skeletons, dead animals, etc.

It was decidedly buff in color with only a few small brownish spots on its surface.

On Thursday, May 26th, we had a pretty long drive before us and we started off before four o'clock a. m. We took Abney's road back in the hills to Cheyenne. The country was quite hilly, and in fact we were riding along on top of an immense table land some 2000 feet above the level of the plains. A species of wild sweet pea grew very abundantly; they were very fragrant. We came in sight of Cheyenne, "the Windy City," and then we turned south.

We had some trouble in getting out of the hills, tipped over once, and when we were out steered direct for a large knoll some thirty miles to the south. It was three o'clock p. m. before we got there at the sluggish pool near the base, and a dusty or more tired outfit could not be imagined. We rested till six o'clock p. m., and then struck out again for Packard's sheep ranche or Cone Tree, only twenty miles from Greely. I worked the creek next day and secured three more sets of Western Red-tail, and three hours driving put us back into Greely.

The Shore-bird Migration at Monomoy Island, Cape Cod, Mass., Summer and Fall of 1886.

BY JOHN C. CAHOON.

July 1st; the birds about the island at this date were Herring Gulls, Roseate, Common and Least Tern, Red-wing Blackbirds, Song and Savannah Sparrows, Sharp-tail Finches, Meadow Larks and Piping Plover. On July 15th, the Least Sandpipers and Sanderling became common. The day following was cloudy with light rains. Semipalmated Sandpipers were common together with the Red-breasted Snipe. The first Black-bellied Plover was seen to-day. The 17th was very foggy all day with south and south-west wind. Saw about twenty-five Sanderlings, all adult, and four that were moulting about the neck. First young of the year, Piping Plover and Spotted Sandpiper seen to-day, full grown. Richardson's Jaegars became common. One Wilson's Petrel was seen on the 18th, and several Semipalmated Plover and two Yellow-legs on the 19th. July 20th, wind south-west, weather fair. New arrivals do-day were one Hudsonian Curlew and two Greater Yellow-legs. Sanderlings were abundant and Semipalmated Plover common.

No new arrivals were noted between July 20th and 23rd. On the 27th a Turnstone was seen and an increase of Sanderlings noted. July 29th, first arrival of young Sanderlings to-day and a small bunch of Greater Yellow-legs seen on the flats. A heavy tempest on the morning of the 20th brought along a small flight of shore birds; three flocks of Robin Snipe seen, Turnstone common. Saw a Stilt Sandpiper in company with some Semipalmated Sandpipers on the flats. Two adult Black Tern noticed; the first this season. A large bunch of Black-bellied Plover and a few Yellow-legs arrived Aug. 4th. Saw two Laughing Gulls, both adults. The Sanderlings seem to be diminishing in numbers. An increase of the Black-bellied Plover was noticed on the 5th, several large flocks being seen. No adult Sanderling are now seen, all being immature birds. The first Pectorals were seen on the 9th, and several Stilt Sandpipers were shot by sportsmen on that date. Four Willet arrived on the 11th. Two Arctic Tern were seen on the 13th, being the first noticed for some time. Four Sheldrake were seen on the 19th.

Aug. 20th and 21st, wind north-east; shore birds scarce, only a few Semipalmated Sandpipers seen. 22nd, Wilson's Petrel were common out in the bay. Aug. 25th, wind south-east and north-east, blew very fresh. A flock of about thirty Golden Plover arrived to-day, but only one was secured. Aug. 26th, four flocks of Golden Plover observed to-day. Sanderlings increasing in numbers. Jaegers abundant. The wind and rain on the 30th brought along a flight of birds on the following day. A large flock of Golden Plover, several flocks of Yellow-legs and a few Greater Yellow-legs were found on the meadows. Pectorals abundant. One Bonaparte and one Buff-breasted Sandpiper collected. Sanderlings were abundant on the flats at low tide. Young Turnstone common. Several large flocks of Black-bellied Plover seen. Shot a Carolina Rail on the meadows.

Sep. 9th, wind south-west; foggy. A flock of twenty Golden Plover came to-day. Young Black Tern seen. Sep. 21st, wind west; clear and cool. Two Hudsonian Curlew collected on the meadows; a few Golden Plover seen; Sanderlings scarce. Sep. 22nd, wind north-east. New arrivals to-day were young Red-backed Sandpipers. Young Black-bellied Plover abundant on the high beach at high tide. Mr. F. H. Carpenter, who spent a short time with us, shot a large number to-day. A small flock of Surf Ducks seen. Sep. 23rd, wind south-east; blew very fresh with heavy rain-fall, which brought

along a number of birds. Young Black-bellied Plover abundant; young Robin Snipe and Sanderlings very common. A few Greater Yellow-legs seen. Sep. 24th, wind north-east to south-east. A Bonaparte Sandpiper shot. A flock of Golden Plover seen leaving the meadows and several Hudsonian Curlew noted. Richardson's Jaegers abundant.

Sep. 30th, wind north-east with light rain. Increase in number of shore-birds. Red-backed Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plover and Robin Snipe abundant. Greater Yellow-legs common. Several Bonaparte Sandpipers seen. Two Great Blue Herons seen on the meadows. Oct. 1st, wind north-west. Greater Yellow-legs increasing in numbers. Several Black-backed Gulls arrived to-day. The first comers of the Tit Larks appeared. Oct. 2nd, wind north-west. New arrivals this date are Bonaparte and Kittewake Gulls. The shore-birds seem to be decreasing. Mr. Carpenter shot an adult female Duck Hawk in the act of eating a Black-bellied Plover that it had caught. Two Hudsonian Godwit seen on the meadows. Oct. 3rd, wind south-east. Several Night Herons seen. Oct. 4th. Black-bellied Plover decreasing. Sanderling common. Several Semipalmated Sandpipers seen. Pectoral Sandpipers common. Two Hudsonian Godwit seen on the meadow and one shot by Mr. Carpenter. Several Bonaparte Sandpipers seen on the meadows. A few Roseate Tern heard. Oct. 6th. All species of shore-birds except Sanderlings are decreasing. On the 8th Bonaparte Gulls became common and Richardson's Jaegars very abundant. A great decrease in Terns was noticed on the 9th. Tit Larks became abundant on the 10th.

Oct. 11th, wind south-east. Only a few Tern seen to-day. Red-backed Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plover, and Sanderlings are still abundant on the high beach at full tide. A number of Black-bellied Plover yet remain. Oct. 22nd, wind north-east; blew fresh and cool. Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Red-backed Sandpiper and Greater Yellow-legs are common. Found only four Pectoral Sandpipers on the meadows. A few common Tern yet remain. Kittewake Gulls noted. Oct. 23rd, wind north-east; blew fresh, cloudy and cold. Several small bunches of Black-bellied Plover seen. A few Sanderlings and Red-backed Sandpipers remain on the flats. Old Squaw Ducks are common. Oct. 24th, wind south to south-west. I left the island to-day, leaving behind me Herring, Kittewake and Bonaparte Gulls; Common Tern; Red-breasted Sheldrake, Long-tail, Surf, and Black Duck; Black-bellied Plover, Sanderlings and Red-backed Sandpipers, Greater Yellow-legs, Tit Larks, Meadow Larks and Black Snow birds.

Aptosochromatism.

A Tabulated Field Study.

BY WALTER HOXIE, FROGMORE, S. C.

The following table was made at Bull's Point, Apr. 23rd, 1886. The specimens examined were Dunlin. It was my intention at the time to make a similar study of those other species of Shore-birds — the Knot, Sanderling and Black-breasted Plover, but I failed to obtain a sufficient number of specimens any one time. I now offer this table for publication together with an explanation of the method used in making it up. And I hope I may receive from some of my co-workers a little more aid this season than I did last, upon this line of investigation.

I first took twelve specimens of Dunlin and numbered them in sequence according to the blackness on the breast. No. 1 was very dark and No. 12 in almost typical winter dress. This column I headed *Black*. The second column marked "p. f." is intended to show the relative amount of "pin feathers" on the specimens — No. 1 having the most and No. 12 the least. Between the last four it was quite difficult to decide with positive exactness. Upon finding that No. 4 was at the head of the list, and that the tips of the pin feathers showed *no white*, I made a final note on the back of the tag "R. o. t.," which was to signify that on dissection I expected to find the reproductive organs *large*. That is probably larger than in some of the specimens above it on the list. Next I skinned and dissected my specimens, placing the number in the first class upon each. I now placed the males and females in separate classes, giving them new numbers but still in accordance with the sequence of "*Black*" Nos. Lastly I placed the reproductive organs in their order of size. The order in which they now stand is indicated in the columns marked "S. of O." It will now be seen that among the females there is no break in the sequence of numbers. Among the males a probable note was made previous to dissection, which accounts for any discrepancy and the close similarity of specimens 11 and 12 gave me no cause for disappointment when I found that my last column would not quite "hitch" at the bottom.

DUNLIN.

April 23rd, 1886.

Black.	P. F.	Female.	Male.	S. of O.
1	2	1		1
2	12		1	2
3	6		2	3
4	1		3	1
5	3		4	4
6	4	2		2
7	11		5	5
8	5	3		3
9	8?		6	6
10	7?	4		4
11	9?		7	8
12	10?		8	7

Was it a Sparrow Hawk's Nest?

BY WALTER HOXIE, FROGMORE, S. C.

On March 14th, 1887, while rambling around Edding Island, I found a dead palmetto stump with a very "convenient" looking hollow in the top. It was a little too high to look in, so I tapped it lightly with the butt of my gun and was pleased to hear a slight scratching on the inside in response.

"Coon," I said to myself, without a moment's hesitation, and I tip-toed off and got a good solid cedar limb with which I effectually plugged the cavity. Then I essayed to push the stump over but it resisted all my efforts. The scratching inside continued, so at that I located the exact spot where I supposed my coon to be and let drive a charge of buck shot. Imagine my chagrin when instead of a good fat coon I found only the mangled body of a little female Sparrow Hawk.

Upon enlarging the opening made by the shot I extricated what remained of a nest. The material was small sticks and cedar bark but no eggs. The Rice Field Mouse often builds its nest in such localities but the material is always fine grass and weeds, which in this case were not present.

Nesting of the Ground Dove.

BY T. D. PERRY, SAVANNAH, GA.

This beautiful and timid little species (*Chamæpelia passerina*) is the smallest of its tribe. It is a constant resident with us here, being quite abundant from Cuba to South Carolina, and amongst the many islands that dot the coast.

Their breeding season covers a long period, commencing as it does early in April, and continuing through June, and sometimes July. I have found their nests as early as April 9th, with eggs slightly incubated; and as late as July 9th with fresh eggs.

The nest is a very slight affair, consisting of a few twigs and pine needles, and very often of grass and pine needles. The birds seem to have no regular place for its location. In one instance I found it on the ground, and in another case it was on a stump. Generally, however, it is located in vines, or in a pine sapling, or a myrtle bush. The height from the ground varies from two to six feet in most instances, though I once found a nest that was ten feet up, and another that was twenty feet from the ground. These latter cases are the exception, however.

They seem to prefer the pine lands, where the undergrowth of young saplings makes the wood dense, and here their nests are generally found. The eggs are always two in number, of a white or creamy color, and average about .86 x .62 in size.

Nesting of the Black Skimmer.

BY CHAS. S. SHICK.

This truly singular bird is the only species of its genus hitherto discovered. It is very singular in appearance, and the odd conformation of its bill has excited much surprise among the leading ornithologists of the world.

The Black Skimmer (*Rhynchops nigra*), derives its name from the habit it has of skimming, while on the wing, the surface of the ocean for its food, which consists of shrimps, small fish, etc.

It breeds in great numbers on the low sandbars and dry, flat sands on the coast of New Jersey. The Skimmers make their appearance early in May and remain till the latter part of September.

They commence to lay early in June, the nests being a mere hollow in the dry sand. The female generally lays three eggs, although I have found numerous sets of four. The eggs are oval in shape, of a clear white color, spotted and blotched with brownish black, intermixed with others of a pale lilac color.

On their arrival in the spring, they form themselves into small societies; ten or fifteen pairs frequently breeding within twenty-five yards of each other. Of the seventy-five or more sets observed by me, during 1885 and 1886, seven sets contained four eggs each, while the rest were composed of three eggs each. Some of these sets were very odd in markings.

Nesting Habits of Texas Birds.

BY HARRY P. ATWATER, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

The following observations on the nesting habits of Texas birds were made at Losoya Crossing, a point on the Medina River, fifteen miles south of the city of San Antonio, Bexas County, Texas, in 1884 and 1885.

The object of my visit to Texas being the collection of natural history specimens, I was daily in the field during the nesting season, and my being on the same spot during two seasons, one following the other, proved very advantageous in many respects.

The location was high and dry, and the absence of any dense forests or tall timber, also marshes or lagoons, will account for the absence of specimens that might otherwise be found breeding in that latitude. The ranch of Mr. Gustave Tondouze, where I stayed, was situated about a mile from the river, and south of it, the river itself running between high bluffs with here and there on either side an opening of a few acres of bottom land, with a few Pecan, Cypress and tall Cottonwood trees, generally covered with tangled vines, and the whole covered with thick underbrush. I expected to find these openings, as well as several very deep and rocky ravines leading down to the river, a fine nesting place for many species; but during both seasons the high water which flooded the river bottom for weeks at a time, and the heavy rains which washed and entirely altered the aspect of these canyons, not only caused the river to be impassable, and prevented exploration, but it really seemed as if instinct prompted, or I might say warned many birds to seek more favorable localities.

Between the river and San Antonio, the country is rolling, and entirely covered with Mesquite trees (average fifteen feet), cactus and Chaparral, with a few scattered Live oaks; and along the road nearest to the river a few ranches and cultivated fields. The same kind of country prevails about two miles south of the river, and then commences a dry sandy country covered with Black oaks, no underbrush, and extending south for many miles; very little settled on account of there being no water, and after the migration almost deserted by birds of all kinds.

Mocking Bird, (*Mimus polyglottus*). Very abundant; commence to breed or build about the middle of March; raise two broods. On account of the cold "northers" which are frequent at this period, these birds as well as all others which commence to build about this time, make nests much more bulky than those found later on in the season, when it is warmer. The first nests taken were also for this reason I suppose, placed in more sheltered spots. Eggs generally four and five, size and color very much varying.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, (*Polioptila cærulea*). Common during migration, and one nest found in 1884; found no nests in 1885.

Black-crested Tit, (*Lophophanes atrocristatus*). Quite common and breed here, but I was not fortunate enough to find a nest during either season.

Yellow-headed Tit, (*Auriparus flaviceps*). Very common in 1884 and about twenty nests taken, one containing five eggs, one of which was much lighter in color than the others; all other nests four eggs. First nest in 1884 contained four eggs, fresh, taken March 31st. Nests nearly always built on outside limbs of Chaparral bush; position always exposed, and with hardly any exception, about same height from the ground. The nests with one exception were composed of thorns and weed stems woven with spider webs and lined with feathers. Birds were not at all shy in 1884 during the breeding time, and I have found nests with one or two eggs, and though on account of the shape of the nest it was impossible to touch the eggs without greatly disarranging it, they did not seem to mind, but finished laying the full number in all but one or two cases, where perhaps it was my fault in disturbing the bird in the nest after dark, causing a more than usual scare. After taking a nest, a new one would invariably be commenced within a short distance of the old one, and eggs laid.

The exception mentioned as to position, refers to a nest now in my collection, which was placed among some moss or lichen on the lower limb of a Live oak tree, and not close to Chaparral or thorns of any kind and no thorns are found in its construction, simply weed stems and the usual spider webs and feather lining; which proves that they do not go very far for material, for had thorns been essential plenty could have been procured fifty steps away. This nest contained no eggs and from some unknown cause had evidently been deserted.

In 1885 the birds were very shy and much more scarce; only four or five nests taken and the birds deserting always upon touching the nest; and in one instance three nests within a short distance of each other, built by the same birds, were one after another deserted before

eggs were laid, the birds themselves finally disappearing.

While on exploring journeys among the thick Chaparral and cactus, the alarm note of the bird always told of the nest being near. I shall never forget this wild little cry, which I may say seemed the essence of "true plaintiveness." On one occasion I stood within three feet of a newly made nest and was just going to examine it when the two birds suddenly darted in front of me like a flash. They did not seem to take the least notice of me and I stood perfectly still watching their movements. First one and then the other would fly into the nest, sometimes both together, for a moment, then out again and busily arrange a twig for a second, then dart off chasing each other like a flash; back again almost touching my face several times, all the time making a happy twittering sound and seemingly quite unconscious of my presence. I never expect to see a happier little pair, and I resolved that their home should never be disturbed by me. After watching them for fully five minutes, I moved and immediately the plaintive wail sounded and the birds disappeared. I lost the place for over three weeks after this and was not near it again for some time, when I did succeed in finding it again I could hear or see no birds, and though I repeatedly visited the spot after that, always very carefully and quietly, I never saw a sign of them, and finally found the nest half destroyed. Upon examining the inside I discovered it had never been finished. I do not think they remained after seeing me. This was in 1885.

These birds sleep in their nests at night. I have taken them alive. They are very brave and peck away spitefully at the intruding finger. The nests are occupied by them during the winter, and the inside made much warmer by more feathers being taken in. The outside is never repaired and one year will wear out a nest, though I have seen some nests which might possibly have been used two years. I think a new one is always made before eggs are laid, the old ones being simply used for sleeping purposes. An intelligent farmer showed me one of these nests close to his house, and told me he saw the bird carrying in feathers between Christmas and New Year's.

They are generally found nesting in the high dry parts of the country, away from tall timber, where the thorns are thickest, and travelling on foot a tedious undertaking. On a journey from Losoya to Carizzo Springs in Dimmit County, near to the Rio Grande, we noticed their nests, and found the birds everywhere evenly distributed, wherever the kind of country I have described as being their home prevailed.

Cactus Wren, (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*). Quite common; five fresh eggs taken March 28th, 1884. Build in communities and nearly always in the tallest cactus, though I have found nests placed among bunches of mistletoe in mesquite trees fifteen feet from the ground. Desert their nests and build new ones for the slightest cause. I have often found the coach-whip snake coiled in these nests, and presume they like the eggs, and attribute the finding of so many deserted nests to this cause.

Carolina Wren, (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). Not plentiful but undoubtedly build nests in the higher portion of the river bottom, among old logs and stumps above high water line.

Texan Bewick's Wren, (*Thryomanes bewicki leucogaster*). Abundant; six eggs taken March 26th, 1884, incubation commenced. Build in natural cavities of trees, woodpecker's holes, fence posts, in fact I may say I have found them in "anything and everything." Several sets of eggs taken from old Yellow-head Tit's and Cactus Wren's nests. I have found several nests built in a fork of a cactus bush, with a large prickly leaf for its roof or shelter, and was much puzzled to know what kind of nest it was till I saw the bird. I once told a little boy to put an old tin can in a brush heap and perhaps a bird would make a nest in it for him. About a week after I was surprised when the boy came and told me the bird had done so and laid an egg in it. I went with him to see it. The brush heap was fully a quarter of a mile from the house. On finding the nest the evening before, the boy had taken the can with him to the house with the egg and bird in it, and after showing it to his folks had placed it in another brush heap close to the house. Six eggs were laid in this nest, and the can containing bird, eggs and nest taken into the house on several occasions after dark to show to people. Finally on one occasion the eggs were broken in handling and the nest deserted.

While searching for their nest these little birds delight in keeping up an incessant scolding and should failure to find one be the result, the scolding immediately changes to the usual triumphant little song as the intruder retires.

Yellow-breasted Chat, (*Icteria virens*). Though I did not find the nest I am nearly sure at least one pair stayed to breed in a low, thick tangled spot on a part of the ranch. The birds were always there and quite late in the season.

Bell's Vireo, (*Vireo belli*). Common, make their nests in the lower limbs of the smaller growth of bushes among tall, well-shaded thickets generally about five feet from the ground. First nest taken April 25th, 1884, four fresh eggs. These are the only kinds of birds in this part in whose nests I found the eggs of the Dwarf Cowbird.

White-rumped Shrike, (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*). A few pairs generally noticed about the same spots quite late in the season; lead me to think they nest here, but I did not find their nests.

Purple Martin, (*Progne subis*). Breed in martin boxes at the ranches. First eggs taken May 17th, 1884.

(To be Concluded.)

Winter Food of Birds in the South.

BY C. S. BRIMLEY, RALEIGH, N. C.

The mainstay of most of our birds during the winter is mainly berries and seeds of various kinds; some kinds of berries, however, being greatly preferred to any others. The two favorite kinds being the berries of White Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and the little Frost Grapes; on the other hand the Red Haws (*Crataegus*), and the Swamp Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), do not seem to be meddled with at all; at any rate not until all other kinds are pretty well used up. In February the hard, uninviting berries of the Sumach appear, to afford much satisfaction to several species. Robins especially seeming very partial to them, but the most curious fact I have noted this winter is the partiality to peanuts, not only of Redwing and other blackbirds, but also of Yellow-hammers; a flock of which species amounting to several hundred, fed for nearly a month on waste peanuts left in the fields after the crop had been gathered in.

With these few remarks I will now proceed to the consideration of each species separately, commencing with the Thrushes:

Robin, (*Merula migratoria*). While with us in October they fed chiefly on Frost Grapes, and when they next appeared in January they indulged their appetites on the same fruit until they ate them entirely and then turned their attention to Holly and Cedar berries, also those of *Ilex decidua*, a very common shrub here. Later on they turned their attention to the Sumach berries, but in March as usual took up their regular habits of eating worms and insects in the open fields everywhere.

Hermit Thrush, (*Hylocichla pallasi*). Feeds indiscriminately on all kinds of berries throughout the winter—Dogwood, Frost Grapes, Cedar and Holly being the favorites.

Bluebird, (*Sialia sialis*). During October and November this species feeds entirely on Dogwood berries, but after they are all eaten, which generally happens about the first week in December, they don't seem to have any particular preferences until about the new year, when they begin to frequent the open fields, feeding on weeds, seeds and insects.

The Wrens, Tits, Kinglets, Nuthatches and Brown Creepers feed almost entirely on small insects and pupae which they glean from the bark and twigs of trees; occasionally varying their diet, however, with a few small seeds.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). In October and November they were feeding on Dogwood berries with the Bluebirds: in December and January I only found them in the pine woods, feeding on insects and in February they were feeding on Sumach berries in company with Bluebirds and Robins.

Yellowrumps, (*Dendroica coronata*). Poison oak berries up to about December, Poplar seeds in January and weed seeds a little later, seemed to form its staple diet this year, though it seems quite fond of insects and even in the depth of winter manages to do some flycatching.

Tit Lark, (*Anthus ludovicianus*). All I dissected this winter but one had been eating insects, including among others large grasshoppers which I should have thought too large for their ability to swallow, as they did, nearly whole.

Shore Lark (*Otocoris alpestris*). Some two dozen I killed this winter had been feeding entirely on small seeds of various kinds.

Cedarbird, (*Ampelis cedrorum*). They only occurred in any numbers in January and assisted the Robins to clear off the Frost Grapes, which task being finished they departed. A few stragglers observed at different times were feeding on Persimmons and Dogwood berries.

Gold Finch, (*Chrysomitris tristis*). Small seeds seem to constitute its only winter food; the sweet gum burs furnishing a plentiful supply all winter. Also feeds on Alder seeds and on weed seeds in the field.

Pine Finch, (*Chrysomitris pinus*). The Sweet Gum seeds apparently constituted its only food this winter, as I never observed it feeding on anything else.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). In November it assisted the other birds to con-

sume Dogwood berries, later on Poplar seeds seemed to be its staple diet till about the end of February, after which time I have most frequently found it feeding on the ground in the woods, but the contents of its stomach whenever dissected, have always been seeds of various kinds.

Savannah, Grass and Field Sparrows and Snowbirds feed chiefly on grass seeds, the latter species varying its diet occasionally with berries.

White-throated and Fox Sparrows and Cardinals were observed to feed largely on Frost Grapes and Holly berries.

Swamp and Song Sparrows whenever dissected, showed only seeds of various kinds.

Redwing, (*Agelæus phœniceus*). In November they pillaged the late corn fields; in January they fed in large flocks in the peanut fields, utilizing the waste peanuts. In March their chief food is spring oats, which are usually planted in the early part of the month.

Cowbird, (*Molothrus ater*). Grass seeds in October, oats in March.

Crow Blackbird, (*Quiscalus purpureus*). Corn in October and November; peanuts in latter half of February; oats in March.

Field Lark, (*Sturnella magna*). Feeds almost entirely on insects, chiefly grasshoppers in the fall, occasionally eating a few oats in the spring.

Crow, (*Corvus americanus*). Main food during all the winter was peanuts.

Blue Jay, (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Water oak and Red oak acorns in October and November; Beech nuts in December and January. After they have finished the Beech nuts, the majority seem to leave us.

Yellowhammer, (*Colaptes auratus*). Dogwood Berries, Black Haws, Sumach berries, Frost Grapes, Holly, and Cedar berries are all eagerly devoured by them during the winter. In February the majority seemed to have concentrated on a peanut field and they fed there for nearly a month, up to the middle of March in fact.

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Their principal food while here seems to be Frost Grapes and Dogwood berries; when these are gone, the yellow-bellies seem to go too. About one in ten contained insects.

Little Sapsucker, (*Picus pubescens*). Berries and insects constitute its winter food in about equal proportions.

Quail and Carolina Dove feed almost entirely on cowpeas, the former species being particularly fond of them; a "pea-patch" almost invariably being the feeding ground of a covey or two.

This about concludes my list, as I have not been able to collect sufficient data about any other species. One fact, however, deserves noting and that is that I have observed no birds feeding on Pine seeds this winter, although they usually are quite a favorite article of diet with many birds including the following; Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina and Tufted Tits, Pine and Gold Finches, Snowbirds and some others.

Baird's Sparrow in Fall.

BY L. JONES, GRINNELL, IOWA.

Although Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdi*) had been found in spring, when it appeared quite common, I had not been fortunate in my search for it in fall until October 4th, 1886, when I found it fully as common as in spring. Its stay, however, was short. A cold, wet time about the 15th drove it, with most of the other sparrows, south.

It seems to be a very shy bird, keeping well to the ground and scooting along through the grass at one's very feet; never rising far above the grass or weeds. It is in sight but a moment and drops again to the covert of grass. *C. bairdi* is commonest along fences where grass and weeds have been allowed to grow, and in neglected fields where a rank growth of weeds affords both food and covert. I have never seen it in bushy places.

Field Notes on Some Birds of Colorado.

BY CHARLES F. MORRISON.

Pica pica hudsonica (Magpie), April 3rd I secured four sets of from four to six eggs each. They breed abundantly about here; at least fifty nests can be found less than a mile from my door.

Nest, a high, bulky structure of sticks, lined with plenty of mud. Upon this fine twigs, rootlets and a top brim of softer material and horsehair, the whole covered with a dome-shaped arch of heavy sticks.

The above facts are well-known, but I beg to differ as to the well-known (?) hole or holes which is always mentioned in connection with this bird's nest. Not a nest I have seen, with or without eggs, finished or unfinished, has any perceptible hole at all, and the bird enters and

leaves the nest through spaces between the sticks just above the nest proper, and in doing so makes as much trouble as a hen trying to pass under a gate (into the garden next door) that was about four inches from the ground. She simply squeezes through and I have now come to the conclusion that the hole left for the convenience of the bird's tail only exists in the dreams of some fanciful collector. The nests are usually placed in a bunch of saplings some twelve or fifteen feet from the ground, often against the trunk of trees where the main limbs begin in the bunch of heavy twigs so often found in this country in certain trees. Eggs similar to Crow's, much smaller. Measurements of a set taken April 22nd, 1.30 x .92; 1.26 x .93; 1.31 x .95; 1.27 x .94; 1.31 x .93.

Zonotrichia intermedia (Intermediate Sparrow). A flock seen April 22nd; answered all the descriptions but black stripes enclosing white crown interrupted by chestnut on side of forhead. As my copy of the "Key" has been exposed to the snows of the La Plata mountains all winter and its locality uncertain, having lost it last fall while on a trip, I am unable to find out if this is a peculiar plumage or not. Neither am I certain if it is Ridgeway's or the typical White-crowned Sparrow, or a combination of the two, or perhaps a new variety; at all events I find no mention of the chestnut in any of the books in my possession. The birds are abundant. Probably are migrating.

Gallinago wilsoni, (Wilson's Snipe). A solitary bird seen on April 10th during a heavy snow storm; the only one I have seen. It would fly but a short distance but was very noisy. I finally secured it by a wing shot, more luck than good shooting, as the snow was blinding.

Otus vulgaris wilsonianus, (Long-eared Owl). A nest of three eggs and female secured April 22nd. Nest an old Magpie's, in thick underbrush. Eggs 1.59 x 1.30; 1.68 x 1.30; 1.54 x 1.53.

I have noticed when taking the eggs of this owl that the male never shows up, while the female flys to an ajacent bush and keeps up a constant snapping of the bill accompanied with a cat-like mew, finally going off and will not return while you are in the vicinity. Quite the contrary with *Bubo virginianus*, in their cases the male and female will fly almost into your face, their great eyes staring at you, making one think he had better watch them. I once lost a small piece of my scalp with hair attached from one of this species.

The Tricolored Blackbird in Colorado.

BY CHARLES F. MORRISON, FORT LEWIS, COL.

Although I have found this bird (*Agelaius tricolor*) in the state it was under such circumstances that perhaps it will not hold good, as I failed to obtain specimens; a fact which I deplore as much, if not more, than anyone, still I would not be at all surprised to find it breeding yet. On Feb. 3rd, the weather having been warm and spring-like for some three weeks I took a trip down the La Plata towards the New Mexico line, some eighteen miles south of Fort Lewis, expecting to find a few migrants brought north by the warm wave; many species that winter in New Mexico often do this only to be driven back by a cold snap. While on my return trip and within a mile of home I heard some new bird notes which came nearer. I threw myself under a bush and soon a blackbird alighted just above my head, to be immediately followed by a flock of as many as thirty, all males. I became interested at once as I recognized *A. tricolor*. Many of the birds were not three feet from me and I had ample opportunity to observe them, while at the same time I could not shoot without blowing the specimen to pieces, and I was also afraid to move as it would at once send the whole troop off. The wind was blowing up a storm and the birds seemed to feel the cold as they huddled together closely and uttering their hoarse but very feeble croakings, (if the reader can find any other name for it they will greatly help me out). I noticed them for some time but was getting stiff from the cold myself, and having now thoroughly examined them I was itching for a shot and a skin, but such was not to be the case as the first movement I made sent them off into the thick underbrush and I saw them no more. I looked for them until it was dark and was back before daylight but it was now snowing hard and if they had not left for the south they were safe in some dense thicket, at all events they were gone as far as I was concerned.

The fact that not a single specimen of *Agelaius* was observed by me in this county (La Plata) the year before and up to date, April 30th, none have appeared this season, makes the occurrence of *tricolor* more interesting, but my attention has been called to the fact that the appearance of *A. tricolor* in Colorado is remarkable. I do not think so; this species is supposed to be entirely a Californian bird, but I see no reason why during the long winters

they should not come up the Colorado river, thence along any stream running in an easterly direction, as the San Juan (pronounced San Wan); perhaps turned in this direction by indications of a cold wave, thence by the La Plata river a distance of eighteen miles would bring it under my observation and in the event of a sudden cold wave this eighteen miles would take them down to an altitude where snow never lasts long and where the Grackles, Bluebirds and many other species winter.

The birds observed by me looked smaller than the eastern Redwing, with the red patch nearly blood-red, the white border showing all the graduations between faint whitish to a pure white; some specimens showing no more white than some I have taken near Worcester, Newburyport and other Massachusetts localities, only in the latter cases the red was much lighter, perhaps might be called searlet. I had noticed this fact in eastern specimens long before the birds were split up into the present three varieties (for I hold them to be varieties of the same bird).

I shall visit New Mexico and Arizona for *A. tricolor* this year and *I expect to find it*.

Nesting of the Broad-winged Hawk in Chester Co., Penn.

BY THOMAS H. JACKSON, WEST CHESTER, PENN.

Though of general distribution in the Middle States, the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo pennsylvanicus*), seems to be nowhere abundant. In this part of Pennsylvania I think it may be considered a rare summer resident. For many years the woods of this county have been thoroughly explored in the season when our *Raptores* are usually found nesting, and although the Red-tail and Cooper's Hawks have always been found breeding more or less abundantly, but two or three authentic sets of the Broad-winged species have been taken.

The first one to my knowledge was a nest containing two eggs, taken by Mr. J. T. Price, on May 24th, 1875, in a wood near the edge of West Chester. These eggs were of the ordinary type, and quite handsomely marked.

Another nest of this species was found near Malvern in this county, on May, 1886. It contained a single egg, much incubated, and was positively identified, both birds having been shot at or near the nest. They had made their home in this piece of woods near the village, a locality that did not afford the quiet and seclusion usually preferred by these birds.

On May 31st, 1886, it was my good fortune to find my first and only nest of this species. I was exploring a wild tract of woodland and swamp, searching at the time for the nest of a pair of Kentucky Warblers (*Oporornis formosa*), that seemed to be home in this particular locality. The male warbler sat in an ash tree, singing for hours, quite tame and apparently having a mate and nest in this vicinity. While examining every tuft of grass, bush or clump of swamp cabbage in the neighborhood that might conceal the nest I so much desired to find, and moving in every widening circle around the tree, where the male sang undisturbed, my attention was quickly arrested by the shrill scream of a hawk—a noise resembling the grating of a large door upon its hinges. Looking up I saw the bird leaving a small nest about fifty yards away. It was about twenty feet from the ground, in a small black walnut, and so small and insignificant looking that had not the birds been seen so suspiciously near it I should not have troubled myself to climb to it. However, an easy ascent, without irons, soon revealed the precious contents—three exquisitely marked eggs of the Broad-winged Hawk. The nest was evidently an old one, probably constructed by Crows the previous spring. It sat deep in the hollow of a crotch formed by three limbs. The lining was composed of a scanty assortment of grasses, feathers and soft strips of bark. The eggs were advanced in incubation, the young having well developed feathers. I should think the eggs had been laid before May 15th. The parent birds were not shy, but kept within sight most of the time I was there, uttering at frequent intervals their loud cries. They remained in the vicinity for some time; late in June I heard them in the same woods, but was unable to again find them nesting.

The measurements of the eggs are as follows: 2.00 x 1.62; 2.00 x 1.60, and 1.99 x 1.61 inches. In all of this set the ground is of a dull grayish white, though in two of them the markings are so general as to almost obscure the ground. No. 1 is heavily blotched with rich brown at the smaller end, running back to the middle. No. 2 is marked in a similar manner though the markings are finer and smoother, as though laid on with a brush and having run together. The coloration of No. 3 is of a very peculiar and handsome form. Almost the entire surface is obscured by a light brown evenly laid on, with here and there a few heavy blotches scat-

tered over the surface. At no place does the true ground color appear, while some of the shadings run almost into a purple.

The fact of having taken this set myself may have unduly prejudiced me in their favor, but to my eye they are unequalled in point of beauty by the eggs of any *Raptores* I have ever seen.

The Home of the Carolina Wren.

BY R. B. MCLAUGHLIN, STATESVILLE, N. C.

On an unusually bright and sunny day in January five years ago, becoming weary of the house, I shouldered my gun, whistled for my dog, and was soon off to the fields, whence the snow which had fallen a week prior had almost disappeared.

Having had luck after quail, I quitted the fields and took to the lowlands for the purpose of shooting the "cotton-tail" rabbit. While passing up a stream flowing across the place, about three feet high in a clump of ash trees, I observed an old coffee pot which had evidently been washed down from the village a mile above, and lodged there during high water. Having a morbid curiosity to take in everything, like most enthusiastic lovers of the feathered tribe, I began to scrutinize this weather-beaten relic. The pot was lying rather horizontally, yet there was sufficient slant to turn the top slightly up, with the bottom resting firmly against a tree, while the pot was supported on either side by trees which joined near the ground. The spout was turned downward and the lid missing. The snow which had fallen into the pot, had melted and been drained off through the spout, exposing a bird's nest half filling the inside, which I readily identified as that of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), the only species of wren breeding in this locality, and one of our most cheerful songsters. Being familiar with the habits of this bird, I took note of it, resolving to visit the spot during the next breeding season.

On my return in the spring, I found the old nest was being nicely remodeled, and new material added; while on a subsequent visit it contained four eggs,—the usual number being five, yet the set was complete and incubation begun. I remembered Samuel Rogers and "The martin's old hereditary nest," saying and feeling with all my heart "Long may the ruin spare its hallowed guest."

I rather wanted the nest but was not in special need of the eggs, so I determined to leave this strange home undisturbed, though I confess somewhat reluctantly at first. This nest was occupied for several consecutive seasons, but the pot has lately been removed.

The Carolina Wren, a common bird with us throughout the year, is one of the first to herald a break of the winter; selecting the pinnacle of some out-building or the topmost point of a pile of wood as a favorite perch from which it utters a song exceedingly loud for a bird of its size, and one in which I assume the Mockingbird takes delight, as there is none which he imitates with more frequency or greater accuracy.

Though this bird most frequently nests about old buildings wherever it finds a suitable place, it will build almost anywhere; in ivy vines, the crotches of trees, banks of small streams, sheaves of wheat and in a single instance I have found its nest on the open ground.

One morning I observed a pair carrying leaves and moss toward the barn, but supposing its nest could be found at any time I paid little attention to them. On the following day it was not so easily found as I had imagined, and it was after a diligent search that I found it in the tar bucket which hung in the wagon shed. A week later, becoming curious, I peeped into the bucket, and there—sad mishap!—was Mr. Wren down in the pitch and held fast. Yes, he had departed this life some days ago. I was sad, but entertain grave doubts about Mrs. Wren's having nursed much of the "silent sorrow" mentioned by Byron, since she mated with indecent haste, perhaps taking the philosophic view that her mate was about as dead as he would ever be; and on the third day after finding him she had repaired to a cavity in an old apple tree but a short distance from that wagon shed and was forming a nest. There was no doubt as to her being the same bird as she had a mass of tar on her head, which subsequently removed all the feathers, leaving her head completely bald. I took some fellow collectors to see her, who decided she had been here for some time. She reared her brood in the old apple tree.

A pair built annually in a wooden wheel, which was among the ruins of an old cotton gin that had been used during the days of slavery; while another pair on the place selected a negro's cupboard as a suitable place for its nest. It built there but once.

Having observed this bird closely from my infancy I decided long since that it would never be troubled to find a place for its nest.

Nesting of the Worm-eating Warbler.

BY SAMUEL B. LADD, WEST CHESTER, PENN.

After having devoted all my spare time the past season to my favorite *Helminthotherus vermivorus*, Worm-eating Warbler, and having been even more successful than I had anticipated, I shall be glad and feel recompensed, if, in giving my fellow collectors a few points, I can assist them in taking their eggs in the future.

First, I found it a great help in tramping last fall over localities where these birds would be likely to breed, and noting places where old nests were found; the lining of the nests rendering their identity, as the birds when not disturbed would probably return to the same ground. Then I began looking for and watching them this spring, (about May 1st, is early enough) and when I found them apparently satisfied with their position, and not moving about uneasily in the tree tops, I was almost invariably right in my conjectures. The peculiar trill of the male is of little assistance, but the chirp of the female often will be, after their full complement is laid, and lead you to their home. I have found eighteen nests containing eggs and six nests with young this season, from May 24th to June 15th, inclusive.

I have observed that these birds are not confined necessarily to hill-sides, as was heretofore supposed, as I have taken three sets on level ground and in rather open places, with little shade. The experience of Mr. Thomas H. Jackson of this place, who has taken ten nests this year, corroborates this fact. I have found that without exception their nests are lined with *Polytrichian* or hair-moss. Sometimes fine grass and horse-hair are used as part of the lining. The body or outside of the nests are composed of leaves only, and they were placed at the foot of either a sapling or small bush on the ground.

The eggs make a beautiful series, owing to their variation in markings, size and shape; some being very faintly marked with light reddish spots, mostly around the larger end, while some are very heavily blotched with lavender or a rich chestnut. The size ranges from .75 to .62 in length by .58 to .50 of an inch in width. Their shape varies from equal ended to quite pointed. The most remarkable set I have taken was on June 11th. After a hard and unsuccessful day's tramp, I heard a female Worm-eater chirping in an unusual place, and merely walked that way from habit, as I did not expect to find their nest in a spot with so little shelter. However, after sitting on a stump near the bird for some time, and not caring to have her wake the neighborhood with her cries, as she did not seem to be inclined to lead me to her nest, I hunted the ground pretty thoroughly, and soon found the nest in an open space where one would scarcely think it worth the time to look. It contained a young Cowbird nearly full fledged, also a Cowbird's egg, which contained a partly formed but decaying embryo, with five eggs of the Worm-eating Warbler, which might well be called a dwarf set. They are perfect in their shape and in their coloration and size of markings; in fact, perfect, except that they contained no yolk. Their measurements were respectively, .46 x .36; .46 x .36; .45 x .37; .42 x .36, and .42 x 36.

One would naturally wonder how so large a Cowbird could stay in this nest without breaking these eggs, but their shells were as thick as the average Worm-eater. The skin of the young Cowbird is now before me; it measures in length 5 3-4 in. Extent 6 1-4 in.

It was remarkable how tenaciously this little female fought in defense of the miserable young Cowbird. She would actually light on my back, flap her wings and snap her beak while I was taking possession of her little fosterling and nest of curios. Regarding the number of eggs laid by the Worm-eating Warbler, my 1887 series reads as follows: three sets of six each, ten sets of five each, and five sets of four each.

Nesting of the Red-bellied Hawk in Cooke Co., Texas.

BY EDWIN C. DAVIS, GAINESVILLE, TEXAS.

The Red-bellied Hawk (*Buteo lineatus elegans*), is not a common resident of Cooke County, nor could it be called a rare one.

They generally select for their breeding places the tall pecan and oak trees bordering our larger water courses, and also the tall oaks growing in heavily wooded "flats" or bogs.

I have found nests in the course of construction, and in fact ready for the eggs by the 5th of March; but as yet have never taken a full clutch of eggs earlier than the 18th of the same month. The nest is usually placed in the topmost crotch of the tree, where two or three large branches form. The construction is simply a large platform of sticks, built over with smaller sticks and grape vine bark formed into the nest. It is in almost every case lined with green leaves of the mistletoe; but as yet I have

not found other kinds of green leaves, as the trees do not put forth leaves in North Texas as early as they do in the middle portion of the state.

The number of eggs laid are three or four. I have taken as small a number as two, but in such cases the eggs were extremely hard to get, and as I could not spare time to visit the nest more than once, took them while I had an opportunity. But at such times the eggs were perfectly fresh. Mr. J. A. Singley of Giddings, Lee County, Texas, in an article, (in current volume, March O. AND O., page 38), emphatically pronounces two or three eggs as the number laid by this species; and says he has heard of some "alleged" sets of four eggs, and has traced all of these large "sets" to a collector in Cooke County, Texas. He also states that he has examined over seventy-five nests containing eggs, and has never found four. I will here say that I have not, out of five year's collecting in Cooke County, had the pleasure of examining more than a dozen nests, and in every case excepting two, the nest contained *four* eggs. I mean by this the full sets of well incubated eggs.

Mr. Singley seems to infer by his article that *Buteo lineatus elegans* does not breed at all in Cooke County, and that they are permanent residents of Lee County. Now I will state that Mr. Robert Ridgway in a letter to Mr. Ragsdale of Gainesville, said he had never found this species east of the Rocky Mountains. And Mr. Singley wants to claim the honor of being the only person collecting eggs of this species in Texas.

Mr. Singley also says, "Mr. Ragsdale states that he has never found more than three eggs of this species in one nest." Since I read the above I have had a talk with Mr. R. and he says he has never taken a set of eggs of the Red-bellied Hawk. Mr. Ragsdale is not an "oölogical" collector and takes very little interest in eggs; but at the same time he is a great lover of birds, and one of the leading ornithologists of Texas. His occupation, during the breeding season, is such that he cannot spare time to collect; therefore, he cannot say positively as to the breeding of this bird in Cooke County. I have shot two different specimens from the nest, and positively identified them as this species. And on other occasions saw the birds as they left the nest, and easily identified them by the deep chestnut on their bellies.

Nesting Habits of the Clay-colored Sparrow.

BY J. W. PRESTON, BAXTER, IOWA.

The spring of 1883 I spent in the interesting lake region of Northern Iowa, and South-west Minnesota; after which I drove leisurely northward, camping where I liked, through Martin County flats, among the chain lakes, past Fairmont, Minn., Winnebago County, Good Thunder, and that romantic region about Mankato, where the Sioux Warrior contended so fiercely for his home.

Especially interesting is that part near where the Lasneur flows into the Blue Earth River. Tall-timbered bluffs shut in the swift, rocky streams, while not far distant on Lyons Creek that charming little cascade, Minneofa, leaps from its rocky bounds sixty feet into the chasm below, then rushes over rocks and among tree roots on its noisy way to the Minnesota River.

In this pleasant manner I travelled into the "Big Woods," around Madison Lake, where some time was spent fishing and studying the plants of that section, which were new to me; after which I returned homeward by a route leading past many lakes, through prairies and woods, via Albert Lea, Minn., and Mason City, Iowa.

On the 29th of June, while driving along the dusty road, between Bristol and Lake Mills, Iowa, a small Sparrow, (presumably *S. domestica*) flew into a clump of large bushes not five paces from my wagon. More to break the monotony than that I cared for the specimen, I secured the bird. The report of the gun startled another from the bush, when search revealed a handsome nest with four fresh eggs, which were secured with the parent bird. To my delight, they proved to be *Spizella pallida*. The late date I do not account for.

My next acquaintance with these charming little fellows was during the season of 1885 at Detroit, Minn., where, as a guest of Prof. W. W. Cooke, I had the opportunity of exploring the contiguous country which is diversified by lakes, larch swamps, woods and prairie. About the fringes of brush, near the borders of timber this species is to be found; where the low hills are half prairie, half brush. During the first week in June two nests were found, one a few feet from the ground in a small larch, the other on the ground in a tuft of grass. In both instances incubation was far advanced.

During the season of 1886 I was especially

fortunate in securing a good series of eggs and some notes on their nesting habits.

On May 20th, I found them nesting, flitting and chirping among the bushes in a very energetic manner. They have little fear and allow one to approach very near.

On May 29th I succeeded in finding in all nine nests, three containing three eggs each; no more were laid three days later. Five had four eggs each and one contained five. All were perfectly fresh. They much resembled eggs of the "Chippy", (*S. domestica*) though rather more delicate in color. In most examples the reddish-brown markings tend to wreath about the larger end while others are almost unmarked, or with few straggling lines and specks.

The nests were composed of fine, round grass stalks, with a few grass blades, lined with long horse hairs. One had few hairs, but a heavy inner wall of tops of a delicate seed-bearing grass instead. The nests with one exception were on the ground in grass, at the foot of some low sapling or bunch of bushes. The exception was in the branches of a low hazel. Some were in short grass on a ridge in bushy pastures, others were in tall tufts of grass at the edge of grassy sloughs, the nest being neatly built into the tops of the grass.

The bird seldom will leave its nest until compelled by the too near approach of the intruder, and then slips out through the grass noiselessly to avoid detection. The song is a rattling *cheer-r-r*, uttered twice in quick succession, after which a short pause and then the same note over again. The male will sit singing thus by the hour, from the top of a favorite low tree or sapling. Another note is a dry *da-da-da-da*, sung as the former. The call note is an energetic *feet-feet-feet*, protracted or shortened as the birds incline, and much resembles the sound made by some insects, and is heard at mating time and when the male carries food, which latter is very frequently. When he nears the nest his sharp *feet* is immediately answered by the female, who comes hurrying to him. Both continue the note for a short time when the male vanishes, and the female makes her way cautiously back to the nest. This proved a sure guide to the nest if one could only succeed in following the quick hops and flights which the bird made, but it is tedious work. I have traced them thus and stood directly over the nest when the innocent little creature sat regardless of my presence. More than once have I taken them in my hand as they slipped away. A gentle tap on the grass, and the bird will hop up onto some low twig but a few feet away, sitting unconcerned while nest and eggs are being removed, though they often chirp impatiently. This neat species replaces the "Chippy" and is a lively feature of the regions where its song is constantly heard.

Night Heron's Nest.

BY J. M. W., NORWICH, CONN.

May 17th, I made my annual visit to the heronry at the east end of Fisher's Island, and two small fish baskets full of sets were taken, which was a small per cent of the eggs noted and will not cripple the usefulness of the colony. This heronry is not regularly harried and some seasons gets off scot free.

Fisher's Island is in Suffolk County, N. Y., is not commonly accessible from Greenport, and is an hour and a half's sail from the Connecticut shore. Formerly large, its population has fluctuated greatly of late years. In 1877 I found it reduced to fifteen pairs, but persecution ceasing for a few years, it rapidly increased and in 1882 it was at its maximum. The enormous nests then fringed even the low bushes on the outside of the circular swamp, and on being suddenly disturbed the birds rose like a great cloud. That year it was impossible to tell the number of birds, but this season, on coming out from the swamp I counted one hundred and fifty individuals perching on the tree tops and with those flying and covering eggs, and by a close computation of the nests, the colony is not less than six hundred to-day.

Entering the swamp, no nests are now found till one penetrates three rods from the outside, none at present can be reached from the ground but they are all in the tops of swamp maples and a few red cedars at an average height of sixteen feet. No empty nests were seen, May 17th, and no foot-prints or abrasions on trees, so this was the first visit this year. Though single eggs and pairs were found, yet there were many young at this early date. It was easy to tell the nests which held squabs by the broken egg shells below, and not difficult to pick out fresh sets by the spare lining of the tree trunks, and by the small quantity of ordure beneath the nests. Four was the average set, but five were not scarce, the proportion of large sets being about one in nine. No clutch of six was seen, no suspicion of markings, and owing to the long dry spell, the eggs were free from nest-washings. Incubation ran evenly through

the advanced sets and the great majority of the nests with young examined held four. Fresh sets were told by a slight roughness, apparent by lightly running the finger tips over the surface. The series was of marked uniformity in size and shape and quite uniform in color. No egg had an excess of pigment nor did any clutch approach the white type. Nests holding lusty young, which were probably built in cold April weather, were large, substantial and well-hollowed structures; while those just built, were of the summer style of architecture, or flat form type and the eggs could be seen from below.

On first entering the swamp, I climbed isolated trees, but soon learning to group my nests would ascend only for three or more sets. To show how Floridian was the quantity of eggs here, I will add that I came down repeatedly with thirteen eggs in my baskets, and on my last ascension could look around on the adjacent trees and count forty-five eggs.

The white of a heron's egg is apt to be leathery when cooked, but the yolk is palatable and at the proper age the young birds are good for the table.

By sailors and the shore-dwellers the birds are only known as "Quawks," and the lovely Snowy Herons seen here sparingly on the migrations are called "White Quawks." One year, when the whole season was forward and the migrations early, I recorded this community of waders in full breeding activity May 6th; the young were shortly reared, and there was a fair proportion of second clutches June 4th. As the young are out of the nests before the summer excursionists swarm these shores, and the wanton shooter now meets with legal discouragement, this heronry bids fair to keep up its numbers for many years.

Nesting of the Whip-poor-Will.

BY WM. L. KELLS, ONTARIO, CANADA.

On the afternoon of May 19th, 1886, my son and myself took a nest-hunting ramble in the wild woods to the north-west of Listowel. The wind had been very high in the earlier part of the day, and it was not until after 2, p. m., that we concluded to start for the forest, and after about an hour we found ourselves approaching the region of our destination, the high, hard-wood timbered land, some distance on the west of Wild Wood. For some time our search led to no discovery worthy of note. The trees were putting forth the emerald foliage of summer; the woodland birds were in full song and on every side their appearance and melodies gave a charm to the senses of sight and sound.

Approaching a place where the underwood was low and thick, we heard the delightful song notes of the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), from its deep shade, and on penetrating this its nest was soon discovered, placed in the fork of a small maple, with the female bird seated thereon. This contained four eggs, which showed that incubation had been several days in progress. Soon the notes of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak fell upon my ear, and I directed my son to look for its nest. In a few moments he called out that he had found it Going to the spot, however, I found that it was not the nest of a Grosbeak that he had discovered but that of a Hermit Thrush, (*Hylocichla unalascæ pallasi*). This was placed on some dry sticks near the ground, but among low bushes, where it was pretty well hid by the newly formed leaves, and though its set of eggs was but three, I found that they had been several days incubated. A few yards from this the nest of the Grosbeak was discovered in a small underwood, about eight feet from the ground, and containing four beautiful eggs. Having secured these, I directed my son to circle around the western edge of the thicket, while I took the other side, intending to meet him on the southern margin. We had nearly circled the thicket and were but a few rods distant from each other, when I was startled by the glimpse of a Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), rising almost at my feet, and after a short, fluttering flight it alighted on an old log near where my son was. On being again flushed she disappeared into the thick underwood. I gave a shout of exultation, for on gazing at the spot where the bird arose I discovered two beautiful eggs; the first of this species that I had ever seen in a state of nature. There had been no attempt at nest making on the part of the bird; the eggs were laid on a few dry leaves that lay flat on the earth, as they had fallen from the trees the autumn before and had been pressed down by the winter's snow. Near by were several small underwood, whose green leaves cast an agreeable shade over the nesting spot, while high overhead the branches and foliage of some monarch of the wood swayed and fluttered in the breeze.

These eggs are about one and a quarter of an inch in length, by eighty-eight hundreths of an

inch in breadth. The general color is clear white, irregularly blotched, first by mottlings of pale purple, then by spots of a reddish-brown hue. They are of an equal length and both ends are nearly of the same size. One has much darker spots than the other, and these are chiefly in an irregular circle near the centre of the egg. The dark spots on the lighter one are more towards the larger end, while what may be termed the smaller end is larger than in the other specimen. They were placed close together and lay lengthwise on their leafy bed. They were perfectly fresh and one of them may have been deposited that morning.

After this find we proceeded still westward, and saw several nearly completed nests of Red-Starts (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and took another set of four eggs of the Wood Thrushes, sets of four and three of Hermit Thrush, and three of Wilson's Thrush (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) and found a partly formed nest of the Golden-crowned Thrush (*Siurus aurocapillus*), from which I afterwards took a fine set of four eggs. Returning homeward we again flushed the Whir-poor-will from her old nesting place.

I might here note that I heard for the first time this season the notes of this species on the evening of the 5th of May and as the weather became warmer their notes were heard apparently answering each other from various tracts of woodland in this vicinity, which seemed to indicate that they are becoming more common.

Bird Notes From the Pacific Coast.

BY H. R. TAYLOR, SAN JOSE, CAL.

A cousin of mine at Santa Clara, Cal., saw a flock of geese some time ago, flying in a southerly direction and, accompanied by a solitary duck of some small species, which was flying in a position third from the first goose of the line, and apparently flapping its wings with great rapidity in order to keep up with the flock. He was greatly surprised at the odd sight, having never before observed ducks flying in company with geese.

One day, some weeks after, while in the same locality, he noticed a single duck flying north with a flock of geese. The duck occupied the same relative position in line as the one seen before, and was he thinks the same bird.

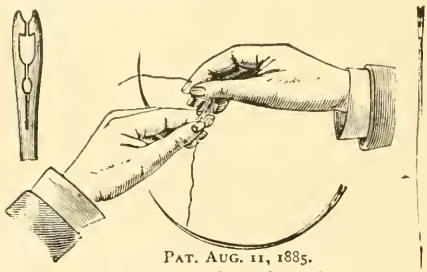
One of my friends saw a small sparrow closely pursued by a Sparrow Hawk and had about gived it up as lost when the sparrow darted suddenly to the ground and saved itself from its dread enemy by taking refuge in an old tin can. After the hawk had passed the sparrow came out of its improvised fortress and flew away in safety.

A new Needle for Ornithological Use.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS.

Readers of the O. AND O. who use ordinary needles for sewing their birdskins do not know what a luxury is in store for them when they invest in a surgeon's needle to replace the time-honored variety. The common needle punches a hole in the skin and when drawn through to the eye sticks, because the eye and thread are larger than the hole. Then the hole is torn larger and the thread dragged through until a a feather or a little cotton catches on it and it sticks again; it is then pulled back, the offending material taken off and a new start is made. We all know how aggravating this is, having experienced it many times.

In the surgeon's needle there is a great improvement, a sharp point with a broad, flat blade, which cuts a hole large enough to let the eye and thread pass easily and obviating subsequent entanglement.



PAT. AUG. 11, 1885.
F. G. OTTO & SONS, SOLE AGENTS.

But last fall was introduced the needle shown in the above cut and known as the Kraty needle. It has all the advantages of the old surgeon's needle and its superiority lies in the fact that it has a patent spring eye. To thread it, take the thread by the middle and pass it into the niche above the eye; the eye opens and the thread slips in, the whole operation taking but a moment's time, and it prevents us from having to lick the arsenic, cornmeal and blood from our fingers in order to roll the end of the thread into a sufficiently fine point to pass into the eye.

At a cost of fifteen or twenty cents these needles can be obtained from F. G. Otto & Sons, 42 East 23rd street, New York, and from most other dealers in surgical instruments.

I feel that I owe an apology to my brother ornithologists for keeping so good a thing to myself for so many months, but it was unintentional and shall not occur again.

Unusual Occurrence of the Red-winged Crossbill in Mass.

About the first of March a friend of mine who lives in Quincy, Mass., showed me nine birds of this species that he had shot in that locality the day previous. He told me that he also saw several large flocks the same day. One month later I visited the same locality and collected quite a number and saw the birds in abundance. These birds have been seen almost every day from March 1st up to the present writing. My friend, who has been collecting all winter, informs me that he had seen none of this species previous to the above date.

Now will some kind reader of the O. AND O. who is better posted on the movements of birds than I am, please explain why this species should occur in such large numbers at a season of the year, when they are commonly supposed to be breeding in the extreme northern countries?

Boston, Mass. J. F. W.

Entomological Department Errata.

JANUARY TO JULY.

Page 15th, first column, thirty-first line, for Weat read *Treat*.

Page 28, second column, fifteenth line, for palpe read *palpi*.

Seventeenth line, for ins read *ish patch*.

Thirty-seventh line, for odical read *apical*.

Forty-fifth line, for absolute read *obsolete*.

Page 29, first column, thirty-second and thirty-seventh lines, for Cirindela read *Cicindela*.

Second column, forty-fourth line, for Staphylnüdae read *Staphylinidæ*.

Page 31, first column, tenth and thirtieth lines, for phipheus read *rhipheus*.

Second column, twenty-second line, for Callydrias read *Callidryas*.

Twenty-seventh line, for Philas read *Philea*.

Forty-fifth line, for Calænus dide read *Colænis dido*.

Forty-sixth line, for Calænis read *Colænis*.

Forty-seventh line, for Anarilla jtlrophe read *Anartia jatrophe*.

Fifty-fourth line, for Uramia read *Urania*.

Page 64, second column, fiftieth line, for Belladouna read *Belladonna*.

Fifty-first and fifty-fifth lines, for Amphinome read *Amphimme*.

Pape 94, second column, forty-sixth line, for Lintenerս read *Lintnerü*.

Page 95, first column, fortieth line, for Legulis read *Regalis*.

Forty-first line, for Regalis read *Erebus*.

Second column, thirty-fourth line, for Hentzu read *Henlzü*.

The Great Northern Shrike and its Prey.

BY BENJ. F. HESS, PHŒNIX, N. Y.

In the spring of 1885 I had the opportunity of seeing a Butcher bird kill a meadow mole, (*Arvicola riparius*). It would strike the mole on the throat with its beak until it killed it. When I approached, the Shrike grasped the mole and flew or, fluttered rather, about twenty feet, when its burden seemed too heavy and it dropped its prey and alighted a short distance away. Again I shot one which was vigorously pursuing a Phœbe among some tall bushes. We have sufficient evidence of late to show that their food in this vicinity is mainly the English Sparrows. I have noticed that they are most numerous in the section of the town where the English Sparrows are in excess. A friend, Mr. Claude Maxwell, has found these sparrows hung in forked thorns of hedge fences, — evidently the work of these Shrikes.

[We have numerous reports of the destruction of the English Sparrow by this Shrike, and commend the protection of the latter bird, for this reason as a method of suppression. Ed].

YELLOW RAIL in Illinois. While collecting in a swamp a few miles from here, I killed a Yellow Rail (*Porzana noveboracensis*), which appears to be rather scarce in this locality. On the same day I secured one each of the Carolina Rail (*P. carolina*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*), and King Rail (*R. elegans*), thus getting a specimen of nearly all the species of Rail of Illinois, in a small swamp of less than half a mile square.

GEO. B. HOLMES, Fernwood, Ill.

PURPLE GALLINULE in Mass. A Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) was shot at Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester, Mass. on May 30th, 1887. A rare occurrence.

H. L. RAND, Worcester, Mass.

Fortunate Collectors.

The season of 1887 will always be pleasantly remembered by several collectors as being one in which many rare specimens of eggs were found.

Col. Goss has taken six sets of eggs of the Mississippi Kite, (*Ictinia subcærulea*) in Southern Texas, while Mr. J. A. Singley has secured seven sets of eggs of the Swallow-tailed Kite, (*Elanoides forficatus*) in Central Texas. Mr. J. R. Chalker has taken six sets of eggs of the Golden Eagle, (*Aquila chrysaetus canadensis*) in California; and Mr. Samuel B. Ladd has found nineteen sets of the Worm-eating Warbler, (*Helminthotherus vermivorus*) in the vicinity of West Chester, Pennsylvania; while Mr. Thomas H. Jackson has secured ten nests of the same warbler in the same locality.

J. P. N.

Messrs. Elwin A. Capen of Canton, F. W. and C. H. Andros of Taunton, and F. H. Carpenter of Boston, Mass., returned the middle of June from the Island of Grand Manan, N. B. The above gentlemen are members of the Bristol Ornithological Club, under whose auspices the explorations were conducted.

A fine specimen of the Ring Billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*) was shot at the San Luis Lakes by Mr. D. O. Dornell, of Monte Vista, on April 4th, 1887. It was a male in the adult plumage. Two others of the same species were seen.

A. H. Woodbury. Monte Vista, Col.

Recent Publications.

We are indebted to Mr. Hurbert L. Clark for a copy of his "*Birds of Amherst and Vicinity*, including nearly the whole of Hamshire County, Mass." An introduction is given by Prof. C. H. Fernald, followed by "An artificial Key" for the purpose of enabling a novice to determine any specimen in hand. A list of 107 birds is given as of "regular and certain appearance in Amherst." Part II. gives a list of thirty-five birds, whose appearance is uncertain in Amherst but which may be common in other parts of the country. Part III. is a list of thirty-five "Birds extremely rare or accidental in this county." Mr. Clark has treated of 177 species, and the work makes a valuable addition to our state scientific literature.

Bulletin no. 2 of the Ridgway Ornithological Club is an extremely interesting document of eighty-five pages. It gives a brief resume of the organization of the Club and its constitution and by-laws. The leading article, "*Notes on the Birds of Southern Californaia and South-western Arizona*" by Mr. G. Frean Morcom, gives by far the best account of the ornithology of the region that we have ever seen.

Another extremely interesting paper is *A Contribution to Our Knowledge of Albinism*, by Geo. L. Toppan, Esq., who presents an exhaustive summary of all the causes which may produce that phase of plumage termed albinism. About the only criticism we would care to pass upon so admirable a work is that it contains no index for reference, — something that no scientific treatise should lack.

Transactions of the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club, Vol. II. No. III.

Transactions of N. Y. Acad. of Sciences.

Canadian Entomologist.

Bird Migration by Prof. B. W. Evermann from *Popular Science Monthly*.

F. H. C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor Ornithologist and Oölogist, Dear Sir:— A few words in regard to collectors may not be out of place. It is a great pity that we cannot have extended accounts from different sections in regard to our birds. In my wanderings the past ten years, I have realized the fact, more and more; many are content with simply obtaining all the specimens possible for their cabinets, regardless of any advance in the science, and by a constant series of exchanges in all parts of the country get together a collection which is only seen, or heard of, by a few local collectors, all of whom are anxious to have a collection of skins that will beat his neighbor's. This feeling is (of course), kept to himself; but is still the truth, (not as common however, in ornithology as oölogy). If these persons would spend part of the time in writing up descriptions, etc., for the public to read, that they spend in corresponding in regard to an exchange which when made proves to be a waste of time, ornithology would be benefited. Instead of this, many spend all the long winter evenings in arranging an exchange with parties in distant localities, and in eight cases out of ten he could not hold up his hand and swear that this party had not swindled him. These are the parties that should not receive permits to collect. Let the taxidermist take his place and mount all he wishes to *and sell them too* and I warrant the decrease in our "native song birds" will not be so great. At all events the "Tax" can make up a bird to look well while the other mentioned personages give us a caricature of what is, or ought to be, "a thing of beauty," and perhaps "a joy forever". More collectors are needed in this section, and if more were in the locality of the "four corners", (Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado), great things might be accomplished. Charles F. Morrison.

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